

Date: February 21, 2013

Members in Attendance:

Chief Belden, Chief Andeson, Chief Forgea, Chief Labrie, Chief Hewes, Chief Mottor, Chief Duggan, Chief Kaleta, Chief Nelson, Chief Bock, Assistant Chief Dudkiewicz , Chief Columbe, Deputy Chief Loch, Deputy Chief Douckoff, Retired Chief Croake, Chief Dahill, Assistant Chief Dahill, Deputy Chief Bardswell

Meeting called to order: 1805 hours

Treasurers Report: No report (Secretary / Treasurer out)

Old Business: No report (Secretary / Treasurer out)

Radio committee- Chief Forgea spoke about converter needed on Mt. Lincoln and Skinner to allow voter to pick up better signal from Towers. MSP is going to pick up cost for these converters to improve communications. Simulcast should be up and running maybe in three to four weeks.

Chief Forgea met with Blair Sutherland and Director of Council of Governments about ownership of radio equipment. Council will write letter to this organization about ownership of equipment and possible meeting in future.

Chief Anderson asked about grant for building out radios and getting V-tac and national tactical channels. Few Chiefs seemed to be aware about this.

Training- Met January 16th , Group did structural burn back in the fall at Springfield and things went well. Next class structural class will be April 7th in Springfield. Building construction done. Pumps and Hydraulics upcoming. Power tools upcoming. RIC class April 19th and 20th. Hampshire Cty. EMS looking to provide first responder training with our group. Training Committee requesting \$3,000 of which \$2,000 to go towards structural costs. Chief Duggan made motion to move \$3,000 to training. Chief Belden seconded the motion. Discussion followed on if it was appropriate to spend this money on this project. Discussion followed on the benefits of the training program. Having classes on weekends when call/volunteer personnel can better attend.

Motion made by Chief Forgea to amend it to \$2,000 seconded by Chief Labrie. Chief Duggan agreed to friendly amendment. Chief Bock stated must be financially responsible with all future funds given limited funding mechanisms. ***Motion passed to give \$2,000 towards training to go towards structural burn class and programs already scheduled.***

Group was reminded about Senior Fire Officer Forum on Saturday, March 2 in Amherst.

Group was reminded Call/Volunteer Program and anyone sending people need to get applications in to DFS by March 1. Classes begin March 30th with classes being Monday and Wednesday nights and some Saturdays.

EMS: System that loads in OEMS credits at the State has crashed. They are manually loading in all con ed credits. People may not have cards by April 1, 2013. Letters should be coming out from State in regards to this.

Mutual Aid: Command vests has been distributed. T-cards have been distributed to all Western Counties. Grant to provide cases to three western counties for mobilization have been submitted and currently in subcommittee for review.

Legislative Breakfast: No report

By-Laws: Legislative breakfast to be eliminated. Recommendation to make it \$600, \$1,000, \$1,400, \$1,800 from Chief Duggan based on current tiered system. Split Treasurer and Secretary position. Any increase in dues will be presented to body prior to Jan 1st in order to be implemented by July 1st. Put a date of May to have budget presented that way any changes that need to be made can be brought back to June meeting. Invoices to go out July 1st and must be paid by September 30th to remain active member.

Hazmat: Steering Committees have no statutory authority. DFS is in the process of fixing this.

Air Truck: No report. In Plainfield

Fit Test: In Amherst.

CFO Con Ed: Deputy Chief Ed Wloch was only person to request to go to CFSI. Motion made by Chief Mottor to sponsor DC Wloch to attend with reimbursement of up to \$1,500 for attendance. Motion 2nd by Chief Bock. Motioned passed unanimously. Chief Columbe will assist DC Wloch with logistics of attending.

FCAM: Professional development conference went well. Great Speakers. One meeting will be held next year in Western MA. FCAM purchasing going well. Command vehicles and other utility vehicles going well and will be next. October meeting in Nantucket.

MCVFA: No Report

New Business:

- SAFE Trailer- Maintenance account has money left over in it. Every year they receive about \$1,500 to take care of it. There is about \$6,900 in account that needs to be spent. Recommendation was to make another community a host community. Goshen is willing to be a host community for the SAFE trailer. Chief Labrie asked that an email be sent to Jennifer Meith about a change in the host community. ***Email will be sent by President to Jennifer about change in host community.***
- Training Committee- Chief Belden stated that he has been only Chief regularly attending training committee meetings. ***Next meeting is March 13th in South Hadley D2 7PM.*** He encouraged more Chiefs to attend and/or their alternates to attend.
- Chief Columbe asked for a list of resources to be developed for the County, where it is, what it costs per year, estimated life span, etc. Chief Norris asked about interest in a website for Association to put all this information up on. Start up costs to be around \$500 with a \$240 annual fee (initial cost \$740). ***Association agreed to have Chief Norris act upon this and begin developing website for Association.***

Good and Welfare: Chief Lawton tentatively retiring end of April

Next Meeting: In Ware, March 14th at 6PM

Meeting adjourned at 2035hrs.